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General Assembly

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Sixty-fifth session

# Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session

## Investigation into assassinations carried out since the establishment of the United Nations

### Letter dated 29 July 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Investigation into assassinations carried out since the establishment of the United Nations".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum in support of the above request (annex I) and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached.

It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Abdurrahman M. **Shalgham**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex I

[Original: Arabic]

### Explanatory memorandum

Since the establishment of the United Nations, several national liberation and political leaders and figures, international figures and human rights advocates were systematically and deliberately assassinated because of their political positions and views.

Such assassinations, including those of Patrice Lumumba, the African leader; Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations; John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America; Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader; Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada; and many leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization profoundly shocked the conscience of humanity and provoked the concern and condemnation of the entire international community. Those acts threatened international peace and security and were shrouded in mystery. Their perpetrators were not effectively prosecuted, contrary to the requirements of justice and the rule of law.

The laws enacted and the actions taken by States with regard to those acts were inadequate, and the manner in which they exercised their jurisdiction over those assassinations was met with scepticism and much criticism.

This demonstrates the need for concerted action under the aegis of the United Nations, and, in particular, the General Assembly, which is the Organization's chief deliberative and policymaking organ and the forum in which all international issues are considered. That action must be aimed at preventing the recurrence of such acts by ensuring accountability for past actions for the sake of present and future generations. Without follow-up and coordinated effort under the aegis of the Organization, the perpetrators of those assassinations will not be prosecuted or punished and will enjoy impunity for their actions, and States will not be able to exercise their jurisdiction over them transparently and fully.

The attached draft resolution calls upon the General Assembly to assume its responsibility to investigate the aforementioned assassinations of important figures because those assassinations constituted a serious threat to international peace and security and the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The draft resolution also calls upon the Secretary-General to form a commission to investigate those assassinations, determine their causes and propose means of punishing their perpetrators. The Secretary-General is further called upon to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present draft resolution.

## Annex II

[Original: Arabic]

### Draft resolution

### Investigation into assassinations carried out since the establishment of the United Nations

*The General Assembly*,

*Bearing in mind* that, since the establishment of the United Nations, several national liberation and political leaders and figures, international figures and human rights advocates were systematically and deliberately assassinated because of their political positions and views,

*Noting* that such assassinations, including those of Patrice Lumumba, the African leader; Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations; John F. Kennedy, President of the United States of America; Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader; Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada; and many leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization profoundly shocked the conscience of humanity and provoked the concern and condemnation of the entire international community,

*Recognizing* that such actions threaten international peace and security, and must not be allowed to occur again or go unpunished, and that their perpetrators must be prosecuted and should not be allowed to enjoy impunity for their actions, and that the exercise by States in a transparent and full manner of their jurisdiction over those responsible for those actions requires follow-up and coordinated effort under the aegis of the United Nations,

*Determined*, for the sake of the present and future generations, to ensure accountability for past actions, put an end to political assassinations and achieve justice and rule of law,

1. *Considers* the assassinations that were carried out since the establishment of the United Nations, and that targeted several important figures, including a number of national liberation and political leaders and figures, international figures and human rights advocates, to be a violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations;

2. *Considers* that, under the Charter of the United Nations, the investigation of those assassinations is one of the responsibilities of the General Assembly and necessary to the maintenance of international peace and security;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to form a commission to investigate those assassinations, determine their causes and propose means of punishing their perpetrators;

4. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.